

Laura Ackerman

Please consider monitoring the air near all railroad yards. Two examples are the one in the Spokane Valley along Trent, Ave. and a large rail yard sits near Pasco, that can be seen as one drives over the US395 bridge over the yard.

Maybe there are monitors near some of the rail yards, but we need to know more about diesel PM emissions, and rail yards may be a significant source.

Also, as we see more and more wildfires we may need to increase air monitors in certain communities that have already experienced wildfires or are rated high in wildfire potential, especially in the Wildland Urban Interface.

The Trump administration ordered that US embassies and consulates quit monitoring air pollution in the cities where there are embassies, etc.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/politics/government/us-shuts-downs-air-monitoring-at-embassies-consulates/ar-AA1AjW0Y>.

Seattle has 26 diplomatic missions. <https://embassies.net/united-states/seattle>. Maybe some of them monitor the local air quality in Seattle and they would be willing to share the data with DOE. It's just an idea.

Wildfire is increasing and wildfire smoke, to use an unscientific word, is "nasty." It can easily drift into overburdened communities as you well know. It seems we many need more AQ monitors in those communities.

In addition what is in fire suppressant dropped by air is toxic with metals. It creates air quality burdens likely, but also can pollute both ground and surface water and soils.

https://pubs.acs.org/doi/epdf/10.1021/acs.estlett.4c00727?ref=article_openPDF

From the paper above: Available online Oct. 2024

"First, in 2016, a U.S.F.S. air tanker base in Washington State, at which fire suppressants are stored and loaded into firefighting aircraft, was cited by the WA Department of Ecology for multiple waste discharge permit violations, including exceedance of allowable metals concentrations (Al, Cd, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mo, V).⁴⁵ Second, an internal U.S. Bureau of Land Management guidance document for tanker bases cautions that "...concentrated...retardant contains ammonia, cadmium, and chromium...".⁴⁶ We therefore suspected that metals might be added to fire retardant products, likely as corrosion control agents, and disclosed to U.S.F.S. but not in publicly available MSDS sheets. This study sought to quantify concentrations of toxic metals in aerially and ground applied fire suppression products and estimate their annual loadings into the environment in the Western United States."